



BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0818; FRL-9941-09]

**Ortho-Phthalaldehyde; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption,
Solicitation of Public Comment**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received a specific exemption request from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to use the pesticide ortho-phthalaldehyde (OPA) (CAS No. 643-79-8) to treat the internal active thermal control system (IATCS) coolant of the International Space Station, comprised of the United States (U.S.) Laboratory Module, the Japanese Experiment Module, the Columbus, and Node 3, to control aerobic/microaerophilic water bacteria. The applicant proposes the use of a chemical which is not currently registered by EPA. EPA is soliciting public comment before making the decision whether or not to grant the exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before *[insert date 15 days after date of publication in the Federal Register]*.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0818, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

15P-0349

- *Mail:* OPP Docket, Environmental Protection Agency Docket Center (EPA/DC), (28221T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001.

- *Hand Delivery:* To make special arrangements for hand delivery or delivery of boxed information, please follow the instructions at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/contacts.html>. Additional instructions on commenting or visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Lewis, Registration Division (7505P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; main telephone number: (703) 305-7090; email address: RDfRNotices@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. The following list of North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide to help readers determine whether this document applies to them. Potentially affected entities may include:

- Crop production (NAICS code 111).
- Animal production (NAICS code 112).
- Food manufacturing (NAICS code 311).
- Pesticide manufacturing (NAICS code 32532).

B. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

1. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to EPA through www.regulations.gov or email. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to EPA, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD-ROM the specific information that is claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

2. *Tips for preparing your comments.* When preparing and submitting your comments, see the commenting tips at <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/comments.html>. 3.

Environmental justice. EPA seeks to achieve environmental justice, the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of any group, including minority and/or low income populations, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. To help address potential environmental justice issues, the Agency seeks information on any groups or segments of the population who, as a result of their location, cultural practices, or other factors, may have atypical or disproportionately high and adverse human health impacts or environmental effects from exposure to the pesticide discussed in this document, compared to the general population.

II. What Action is the Agency Taking?

Under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136p), at the discretion of the EPA Administrator, a Federal or state agency may be exempted from any provision of FIFRA if the EPA Administrator determines that emergency conditions exist which require the exemption. NASA has requested the EPA Administrator to issue a specific exemption for the use of OPA in the

International Space Station IATCS coolant to control aerobic/microaerophilic water bacteria. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

As part of this request, the applicant asserts that it has considered the registered biocides and has concluded that OPA is the most effective biocide which meets the requisite criteria including: The need for safe, non-intrusive implementation and operation in a functioning system; the ability to control existing planktonic and biofilm residing micro-organisms; a negligible impact on system-wetted materials of construction; and a negligible reactivity with existing coolant additives. The International Space Station would not have an adequate long-term solution for controlling the micro-organisms in the coolant systems without the use of OPA.

The OPA is immobilized onto a porous resin material. Delivery into the coolant system is through connecting a stainless steel canister which contains the OPA-impregnated resin into the coolant system loop, using flexible hose and quick disconnects. As the coolant fluid flows through the canister, the OPA effectively elutes from the resin material into the coolant fluid.

The applicant proposes to make one application to obtain a concentration of up to 500 mg/L OPA, to the loops of the IATCS coolant system of the International Space Station comprised of the U.S. Laboratory Module (coolant system volume of 272 L), the Japanese Experiment Module (coolant system volume of 213 L), the Columbus (coolant system volume of 150 L), and Node 3 (coolant system volume of 194 L) for a total volume of 829 L. The maximum amount potentially used under the emergency exemption totals 1,964 cm³ OPA resin, and would provide control of

aerobic/microaerophilic water bacteria for approximately one year, at which point the system would require replenishment. NASA has obtained approval for this use through EPA authorization of emergency exemptions annually over the past four years.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the application itself. The regulations governing FIFRA section 18 require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing use of an active ingredient which has not been registered by EPA. The notice provides an opportunity for public comment on the application.

The Agency, will review and consider all comments received during the comment period in determining whether to issue the specific exemption requested by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*

Dated: January 15, 2016.

Daniel J. Rosenblatt, Acting

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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